

Public Input to the FCC
Telecommunications Relay Service Docket CG 03-123
September 14, 2006

Hello. My name is Barry White. I work here at Gallaudet University. I would like to make a comment about some communication issues. Outside of the university when I'm trying to access a building and you have to use -- sometimes you have to use an intercom to be buzzed in to gain access to the building. I'm at a loss. I can push that button. But that's all I can do. Then what?

So I just wait and hope that someone comes to see who's at the door. But typically that's not the case. And I can ring and ring and ring and I'm forced into that kind of situation. Somebody will just look at me as though I'm a crazy person. What is he doing, just standing there and ringing an intercom. When I answer, he's not saying anything. That's one case in many buildings. Many buildings have intercom systems these days and it's just not easy for me to use. Now, in my home, until recently I have been able to take advantage of video relay services or as of lately I have been able to take advantage of video relay services through my pager. But I would like to say that it requires an investment on my part and it's not inexpensive. I have had to cut my regular telephone service because the charge for that was not reasonable.

And I didn't use the phone often enough to mandate spending the monthly fees. Maybe'd use a telephone once a month. So of course I determined I would eliminate that from my technology. I live in a condominium. And the condo has -- the

building has a secure entrance and, again, it requires a buzz in. And that must go directly to a telephone line. Well, now I'm in a position where I really shouldn't disconnect my telephone because if someone's outside while I'm inside, how am I going to know that they are there trying to get my attention or be let in?

So it's a huge barrier. Another concern I have, summer has recently come to an end and I have been traveling. I made a stop and fortunately landed and one plane incident caused a delay and my layover, fortunately the connecting flight was delayed as well. But I saw many incidents where potential problems could have occurred. Would I have waited for the next flight?

And there was some information given about some change that had been made to the flight itinerary. I suddenly saw a ton of people gathering into one specific area and I didn't know what that meant, were they being called for the airplane or what?

So I thought I would send a message. I'd need to get that information to someone that I had been delayed and I wasn't going to be arriving at the expected time. But I didn't know what was happening. But like I said, all these people are walking by and gathering into one specific area.

Now in this case, nothing happened. Nothing went wrong. People were just lining up for the gate.

But in the event that something like that were to happen, the situation can be avoided. You know, if information is given to people at each gate and it's accessible at each gate and even in central locations throughout an airport where people can

see, perhaps in restaurants or in the main terminals. So that if there's an emergency they would realize that and be able to evacuate. So we just need access to these types of communications so we know what's going on around us. Thank you.